

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 IO-13 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05

H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02

SS-15 ICA-11 TRSE-00 AID-05 /092 W

-----092816 121330Z /40

R 111032Z JUL 78

FM AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7788

INFO AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

C O N F I D E N T I A L KHARTOUM 3084

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV, PINS, PINT, SU

SUBJECT: CABINET RESHUFFLE MAY FOLLOW CONCLUSION OF OAU SUMMIT

1. PRESIDENTIAL CONFIDANT RAHMAN EL BASHIR TOLD ADCM THAT CABINET RESHUFFLE MAY TAKE PLACE AS EARLY AS JULY 25-26 FOLLOWING CONCLUSION OF OAU SUMMIT. BASHIR INDICATED THAT CHANGES PROBABLY WOULD BE MADE IN INFORMATION, INTERIOR, COMMERCE, TRANSPORT AND INDUSTRY. BASHIR INDICATED THAT PRESIDENT NIMEIRI HAD TOLD SADIQ AL-MAHDI HE WILL HAVE SOME ROLE IN CABINET FORMATION. BASHIR SEEMED TO CONSIDER IT UNLIKELY THAT SADIQ WILL ASSUME POSITION IN GOVERNMENT.

2. EMBASSY EXPECTS THAT THERE WILL ALSO BE CHANGE IN WAR PORTFOLIO WHERE MINISTER HAS INDICATED THAT HE SEEKS TO RESIGN FOR HEALTH REASONS. SHIFT IN DEFENSE MAY ALSO EXPLAIN BASHIR'S COMMENT ABOUT CHANGES IN INTERIOR. SENIOR SECURITY OFFICIAL OMAR TAYEB MAY BECOME MINISTER OF INTERIOR.

3. VERY CAPABLE SOUTHERN MINISTER OF INFORMATION BONA MALWAL HAS NOT AVOIDED DISAGREEMENTS WITH NIMEIRI.
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HE STRONGLY OBJECTED TO NATIONAL RECONCILIATION PROGRAM BECAUSE OF SADIQ AL-MAHDI'S ROLE AS PRIME MINISTER DURING MOST BRUTAL PART OF CIVIL WAR. ALSO, BONA HAS PROTECTED MINISTER OF STATE FOR INFORMATION WHO HAS BEEN CRITICIZED FOR LEFTIST POSITIONS. REPORTEDLY, EX-FOREIGN MINISTER MANSOUR KHALID HAS REFUSED TO ACCEPT INFORMATION PORTFOLIO IN NEW GOVERNMENT AND HAS

RECEIVED NIMEIRI'S PERMISSION TO WITHDRAW FROM SUDANESE SOCIALIST UNION AND EDITORSHIP OF AL SAHAFI NEWSPAPER FOR HEALTH REASONS. (COMMENT: KHALID HAS BEEN DISAPPOINTED BECAUSE HE DID NOT RECEIVE SENIOR U.N. DEVELOPMENT POSITION IN RECENT ELECTION. WE BELIEVE HE IS PREPARING TO ACCEPT FELLOWSHIP IN U.S.)

4. MINISTRIES OF INDUSTRY AND COMMERCE ARE TO BE CHANGED BECAUSE OF THEIR LACK OF SYMPATHY FOR REQUIREMENTS OF SUDAN'S PRIVATE SECTOR. MAJOR PROBLEMS HAVE DEVELOPED IN MINISTRY OF TRANSPORT WHERE MINISTER CURRENTLY IS ON VACATION. ACCORDING TO BASHIR, NIMEIRI PLANS TO BECOME INCREASINGLY INVOLVED IN OPERATIONS OF THIS MINISTRY IN ORDER TO DETERMINE WHETHER PROBLEMS ARE CAUSED BY LABOR, LACK OF SPARE PARTS OR SIMPLY ADMINISTRATIVE INEFFICIENCY IN RAILROAD AND MINISTRY.
BERGUS

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